

Andover Theo. Sem. Dec. 3. 1827

Dear S.

In consequence of the mails coming in very late on Saturday I did ^{not} receive your letter nor the one from Mr P. until to day - of course I could not attend your fathers funeral. Had I received them on Saturday I think I should have come on to see you; but as it is I must content myself to remain ^{here} and can now only express to you my sincere regret that I am thus deprived of an opportunity, to sympathize with you in your affliction and, to pour into your wounded heart such consolation as earthly friends can give. But I need not tell you here, there is ~~a comforter~~ another comforter who can do more and better for you than all earthly friends - for I trust that in the course of all your afflictions you have sometimes found it so.

By a most unexpected and sudden blow the king of terrors has reft you of your only remaining parent - True he was a constant source of affliction and trial to you - ~~him~~ he has often caused your heart to bleed & your tears to flow - ~~his~~ & your soul has rung with anguish as you have seen him giving way to strong drink - but I forbear - You and I have before this lamented over his unfortunate course. And ^{yet} notwithstanding all this he was your father - he gave you your existence - he nourished you in helpless infancy - he provided the means for your support in riper years - and he loved you to the last and in return I have seen evidence abundant that you loved him - I have seen the care and the anxiety you have felt for him in seasons of sickness - I have admired your filial affection - affection that though often tried was never weakened - affection that prompted to unremitted kindness. Ah you have indeed well repaid the debt of nature to that parent who now lies beneath the cold clods of ^{the} tomb - and I know you cannot fail to feel his death with ^{the} keenest sensibility. Come when he will or where he will Death always makes us feel - but ah how ~~can~~ he wings the

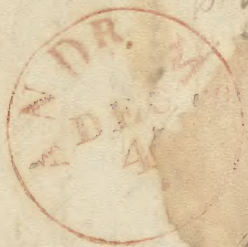
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if you wish advice on any subject ask (perhaps) without reserve - if you wish it on any subject that you do not like to mention to him ask of me - And for one you know that I will advise you to the best of my ability - to good night - I am extremely fatigued - I wish therefore to sleep - I am sure you may be having so at this moment - I remember me to Mr. P. & tell him to write

the soul, when he takes a father or a mother you can ^{now} tell by sad experience. Yes strange as it may seem you are now an orphan but not a friendless one by any means. ~~to comfort & support you~~
But I dwell too long upon this mournful event. We cannot on such occasions fail to mourn but Sarah I am it does no good. These are afflictions sent upon us by a wise and holy Providence not that we should mourn simply - but that with our mourning we should make a solemn application of them to our - selves - They are the voice of God, saying, "be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh". They are the rod of the Almighty saying "The Lord loveth whom he chasteneth" ~~and~~ "ye have been disobedient children turn ye at my reproof". They are the voice of him who says "I am the father of the fatherless - I love them that love me & those who seek me early shall find me". O Sarah Ann this event does call upon you upon me & upon all to be ready - ~~it~~ it is a solemn - dreadful thing to die - to go into the world of spirits - to close up our account for eternity and to enter upon that state in which we are to spend our immortality. It is a solemn thing to meet the God who made us - the saviour who died for us - the spirit sent to sanctify us - and the multitudes of holy men who are sitting round the throne of this Triune God and singing the Song of Moses & the Lamb. And if we are not prepared to join the heavenly song & it is surely a dreadful thing to die - to die this double death of soul and body too. When I contemplate it, it swells and swells in magnitude and importance till I am lost and find my mind too weak to grasp in all the views.
But as I said before there is a comforter to whom we can go and be sure to find relief in all our woes. He will sanctify these afflictions to us - Yes we have a father in the heavens who knows and pities all our woes - To him we can go - go freely - go without reserve and through the merits of our great High Priest he has promised to hear the humble suppliant's prayer.

Tell me all the news when you find time for it - I hope you will write - I think you are doing right - but never mind - I'll have a word - along of your own by & bye

To him I commend you in this time of trial. Oh may he
make you his; & write your name in the book of life. I find
a real, solid pleasure in remembering you before him of which
I would not be deprived for all the joys that earth can boast
I find a joy in coming before him in my own behalf
more solid & substantial than any I have ever felt from any other
source - Oh there is something so noble - so sublime & so affecting
in the idea of a mortal communing with the great Jehovah
that who would not desire it - man conversing with the deity -
a feeble man, with him whose omnipotence spread out the
heavens & peopled the immensity of space with myriads of worlds
the sinning subject with the holy & merciful Sovereign - Who
~~would~~ not value audience with such a King - the friendship of
such a friend - the protection and affection of such a father?
Believe me then I sympathize with you sincerely and gladly
were it possible, would I mingle my tears with yours.
From ~~your~~ letter I learned that you were at Dover and ~~that~~ ^{that}
that Mr P. wrote me in consequence of your suggestion
Thinking that ~~that~~ might be the case I did not know but you might
wish to see me on some particular account - if it is so write me im-
mediately and I will now come on & see you - You will perhaps
expect some advice from me as to the course you are now to pursue -
~~For~~ I see your sister would be glad for you to come to Boston - I
presume Mrs P. would like to have you come to Dover - As to Boston,
(I must ~~be~~ be frank & unreserved) The only objection and which I consider
one of some importance is, that you will there be placed under Unitarian
preaching & influence. On the whole perhaps that is the best place you can
spend the winter in. If you come to B - I shall at least have the pleasure
of seeing you much sooner than I could otherwise. Still if you &
Edmund) & I perceive from your letter there is some approach to it - I
say if you & Edmund can become entirely reconciled & can spend your
time agreeably together it may be best for you to remain where you are
- In short you must judge for yourself - And I hope that you may be
happy & forget all your sorrows in the consolation that comes from Heaven -
O, I long to embrace you ~~again~~ to supply your loss - and be your protector
and experience ~~myself~~ the joys arising from a personal interchange of virtuous
affection and ardent affection. I have necessarily omitted all news - I can
only say we have one classmate dangerously sick. ~~we~~ ^{we} are much
engaged in Hebrew - find the course delightful



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Dec 3^d 1827.
A.C. & S.A.

but of my ability - so good night - I am extremely fatigued - and therefore shall close the day
sincerely - presume you may be home so at this moment - Respectfully me to Mr. Peck - Tell him to write